

IOWA CHILD ADVOCACY BOARD

advocating for abused and neglected children in Iowa

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Date of Foster Care Review: February 4, 2015

**Report to: The Presiding Juvenile Court Judge
Dubuque County Courthouse
Dubuque, Iowa 52001**

Period Under Review: 8/29/14 to 2/4/15

REGARDING: John Doe
Jane Doe
Joan Doe
Julie Doe

**JV# 000000
JV# 000001
JV# 000002
JV# 000003**

**D.O.B. 07/13/02
02/11/01
12/14/05
12/28/99**

On 5/2/14 these children entered the foster care system on a voluntary basis due to allegations of physical abuse by their adoptive mother against Julie. The children were adjudicated CINA on 8/29/14. If the children remain in foster care on 8/29/15, Juvenile Court Judge will schedule a hearing to consider the need for a secure and permanent placement. Options available to the Judge range from return of custody to the parent(s) to termination of parental rights for adoption.

This is the 1st Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) review of this case. The next scheduled in-court hearing is 3/2/15. The next scheduled FCRB review is 8/2015 or prior to the next court hearing. Today, the FCRB reviewed the Case Permanency Plan (CPP) dated 11/5/14. Currently, John is placed with suitable other persons in Springfield while the other three children are placed together in relative care in Springfield County.

CHILD'S INPUT FOR THE JUDGE: No statements were provided.

FCRB FINDINGS REGARDING THE CHILD(REN)'S NEEDS FOR PERMANENCY AND WELL-BEING

Child(ren)'s Stability In Placement	Rating
A. Is this the child(ren)'s only entry into foster care in the past 12-months?	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	
B. Is the current foster care placement stable?	Yes
C. If the placement is at risk of disruption, is DHS addressing the problems through supports and services?	N/A
<i>Comments:</i>	
D. Has the child remained in the same foster care placement throughout the review period?	
John	No
Jane	Yes
Joan	Yes
Julie	Yes

All names, DOB and locations are fictitious in this sample report.

E. If the child did change placement, was the move directly related to helping achieve the permanency goal?	
<i>List below all foster care placement change(s) including date of move, level of care and reason:</i>	
John.....	Yes
12/2/14 Transitioned from relative care to suitable other person(s) placement due to disrupted relative placement.	
Jane.....	N/A
Joan.....	N/A
Julie	N/A

Child(ren)'s Permanency Planning	Rating
F(1). Does the current goal match the child(ren)'s need for permanency?.....	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	
F(2). If foster care entry was in the past 6 months, was a CPP goal written within the first 60 days?.	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	
The current written CPP goal is: (if concurrent goals, check both)	
G. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reunification/Guardianship/Permanent Placement with Relatives. Is achievement expected within 12 months of entering foster care?.....	Yes
<i>.... Comments:</i>	
H. <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption. Is finalization expected within 24 months of entering foster care?.....	N/A
<i>.... Comments:</i>	
I(1). <input type="checkbox"/> APPLA. Is the current placement committed to provide care until majority age?.....	N/A
<i>.... Comments:</i>	
I(2). If the child is age 16, is DHS providing transition planning/independent living services?.....	N/A
<i>Comments:</i>	
J(1). If the child has been in foster care 15 of the most recent 22 months, was a TPR petition filed?.	N/A
J(2). If no, do compelling reasons exist to not file for TPR?.....	N/A
<i>The compelling reasons are:</i>	

Preserving the Child's Family Connections	Rating
Has DHS been making concerted efforts to:	
K. place the child within approx.1 hour's travel from the parental home/reunification home?.....	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	
L. place the child together with any siblings in foster care, if appropriate?.....	Yes
<i>Comments: Efforts were made and the children were initially placed together until 12/2/14 when John was moved to suitable other persons.</i>	
M. provide sufficient frequency and quality of visits for the child with each parent and with siblings in foster care for continuity of relationships? [include calls/letters for parents incarcerated or living out-of-state; consider comfort of surroundings, visit length, infant needs for frequency, etc].....	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	
N(1). preserve the child's community connections? [eg school, extended family, social clubs].....	
<i>Comments: Due to the placements, the children have had school changes. John is back in his home school.</i>	
John.....	Yes
Jane.....	No
Joan.....	No
Julie	No
N(2). inquire about Indian heritage, notify the tribe, and follow ICWA placement preferences?.....	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	

- O. seek out maternal and paternal relative care-givers, if specialized treatment is not required?..... **Yes**
Comments:
- P. promote/support a positive, nurturing relationship between the child and each parent?..... **Yes**
Comments:
- Q. actively involve the child (if developmentally appropriate) and each parent in case planning?..... **Yes**
Comments:

Meeting the Child(ren)'s Needs		Rating
Has DHS been making concerted efforts to assess and address the child(ren)'s:		
R. educational needs? [includes school or pre-school aged, or younger with dev. delays].....	Yes	
<i>Comments:</i>		
S. physical health needs? [and dental health needs if appropriately aged].....	Yes	
<i>Comments:</i>		
T. mental/behavioral health needs? [includes substance abuse issues].....	Yes	
<i>Comments:</i>		

FCRB FINDINGS REGARDING SPECIFIC CPP NEEDS (marked with an "X" below)

CHILD WELL-BEING:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child's mental health | <input type="checkbox"/> School performance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationship w/caregiver(s) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child's behavior | <input type="checkbox"/> Motivation/co-op to stay w/family | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationship w/siblings |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationship w/peers | | |

Progress: Amy Decker (DHS) was not able to be present for this review. She provided the board with a copy of the DHS Report to Court dated 2/3/15. Star Smythe (relative caregiver) also left a message that she was not able to attend due to being in school.

All of the children are seeing therapists at Crossbridges Counseling Center. It was reported today that the children have been going about once a month; however Don Strick (Family Services) noted that the therapists have recommended more frequent sessions. Those present today had differing opinions as to the recommended frequency of the children's individual sessions. Mr. Strick noted that one of the goals is to have therapeutic sessions for Teeya Doe (adoptive mother/grandmother) and the children with the therapists to address past trauma the children experienced with their biological mother, as well as trauma experienced in the adoptive home. With the lack of frequent and consistent individual appointments with the children it is difficult for the children to make therapeutic progress.

Joan is a 4th grader at the elementary school. Teri Smith (GAL) reported that when John first moved out of the relative home, Joan reported missing him. There was an adjustment period but now Joan appears to be doing okay with the change.

John was moved from his aunt's home to Ray and Tami Jones' home on 12/2/14 after reporting to Amy Decker (DHS) that he felt unsafe at his aunt's home. Mr. Strick noted that John requested to be placed with Mr. Jones and his family. Mr. Jones explained that they had a prior relationship with John as he and their son became friends through the Wish Center; John had spent some overnights at the Jones home prior to them becoming involved in this case. John is in 7th grade at the junior high school and is earning A and B grades for the majority of his classes. Overall, John is doing well. He is starting to feel more comfortable in their home and being part of their family. He continues activities through the Wish Center and participates in basketball through school. Ms. Doe reported that she did not find out about John's placement change until after it occurred but she is pleased that her grandson is doing well with the Jones family. Ms. Smith reported that she has been to the Jones home to meet with them and John. John is not very talkative with her but he does appear to be happy in his placement. Mr. Strick stated that John doesn't talk a lot about what he's feeling or thinking about.

Jane is an 8th grader at the Intermediate School. She needs orthodontic work. Ms. Doe reported that Jane was approved for the work but will need to receive the treatment in Oakville. She scheduled an appointment but Star Smythe (aunt/relative placement) needed to reschedule that appointment for later in February. Ms. Smith reported that the consultation has been completed but there is another appointment for Jane to get her braces applied.

Julie is a 9th grader in high school. There were no concerns or other updates provided.

Ms. Doe reported that there are no concerns with the children and their schooling. She believes the children are ready to be reunited with her back in the family home.

PARENTAL CAPABILITIES:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supervision of child | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disciplinary practices | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Development/enrichment |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental health | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical health | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use of drugs/alcohol |

Progress: Ms. Doe reported that she believes she has been cooperative and consistent with participating in services. She noted that she juggles appointments at the local substance abuse center (SAC), meeting with Mr. Strick, visits with the children, appointments for her husband, her job and working on home repairs. She reported that she sees Callie Rund (SAC counselor) once a week and has been going to all her appointments. Amy Decker's report to court addresses concerns about Ms. Doe missing two appointments at SAC in January and one on 2/2/15. Ms. Doe reported she missed the session on 2/2/15 due to the bad weather. She stated that she has not seen her individual counselor, Jack Myer (Sheridan Therapist) since she did her psychological evaluation in Independence as she is not sure what the recommendations are from the evaluation.

Ms. Doe reported that she works Monday – Friday, 8 AM to 4 PM. She does not have her own transportation and uses public transportation to get to her appointments and work. She completed a psychological evaluation in October 2014 but has not seen the results. Samantha Trane (mother's attorney) reported that she has not seen a copy of the evaluation yet. Ms. Decker was reportedly going to meet with Ms. Doe to go over the evaluation but that appointment needed to be rescheduled.

Ms. Doe reported that the roof repair has been made and ServiceMaster cleaned the floors. She is in the process of reorganizing the furniture and putting the home in order. Mr. Strick has not seen the home yet since Ms. Doe's daughter (the children's biological mother) moved out last week and more cleaning was reportedly completed.

It was reported that Maury Doe (adoptive father) has health issues and is currently residing with his son in Lindale.

FAMILY SAFETY:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Physical abuse of child | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual abuse of child | <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional abuse /child |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neglect of child | <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence | |

Progress: This is the basis for the children's removal.

FAMILY INTERACTIONS:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonding with child | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expectations of child | <input type="checkbox"/> Mutual support w/in family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relationship between parent/caregivers | | |

Progress: Mr. Strick reported that visits go well between Ms. Doe and the children. The interactions occur once a week at Five Pines for two hours. John often distances himself from the rest of the family during the interactions; however, Mr. Strick noted that at the last visit John was more involved and interacted with his siblings. She noted that the children appear comfortable during the visits. Ms. Doe appears to have more individualized time with Julie during the visits.

John has limited contact with his siblings since his placement change. The children use social media to have contact at times but it is not regular contact. They do not call one another; however Mr. Strick recommends phone calls.

The goal is move the interactions to the family home; however this has not yet occurred due to issues with cleanliness and clutter in the home and John and Jane have stated they do not want to go back to the home. Julie tends to go back and forth regarding her feelings about returning to the home. Joan does want to be back at home.

Interactions can increase once the providers see more consistency from Ms. Doe in regard to active participation in services. Mr. Strick reported that in the past three weeks, Ms. Doe has maintained better communication and participation.

HOME ENVIRONMENT:

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing stability | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety in community | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Habitability | <input type="checkbox"/> Food/nutrition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Mgmt | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal hygiene | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Income/Employment | | | |

Progress: As noted above, Ms. Doe is employed full-time. She has a residence and is making the necessary repairs and working on creating a clean and organized environment. She noted that she utilizes public transportation to get to work and her appointments.

OTHER: CONCURRENT PLANNING:

Ms. Smith provided information about the concurrent planning options being explored by Ms. Decker. The Jones family is participating in the foster parent training and licensing process. There are willing to be a long-term placement option for John if needed.

Star Smythe has stated that she is willing to be a long-term placement for the children; however Ms. Smith is not certain if she truly wants to be a long-term permanent placement for the children or if she is only willing because she does want an unknown alternative for the children that could result in them no longer being placed together. She has indicated to the Department that she is willing to take the foster parent training.

Ms. Doe has provided the Department with the names of other relatives outside of the area.

NEW FCRB RECOMMENDATIONS:

The permanency goal for the children is reunification. The FCRB supports this goal.

For DHS/Providers:

- The Board recommends that the frequency of individual therapy sessions be clarified and all parties be informed of the expectations.

For DHS:

- The Board recommends that DHS provide a copy of the psychological evaluation to Ms. Doe.

For Ms. Doe:

- The Board recommends that Ms. Doe comply with all expectations of the case plan to work toward the goal of reunification.

COMMENDATIONS:

- The Board commends the Jones family and the Smythe family for opening their homes and families to the Doe children and providing for their well-being.

NOTIFIED OF TODAY'S REVIEW AND RECEIVING A COPY OF THIS REPORT: Amy Decker (DHS); Carrie Merritt, Ray Miller & Jesse Bonert (Crossbridges Counseling Center); Dubuque County Attorney; Don Strick (Family Services); Ray & Tami Jones (Suitable Placement/John); Star Smythe (Relative Placement/Jane, Julie, Joan); Teeya Doe (Mother); Samantha Trane (Mother's Attorney); Shay Oak (DHS Supervisor); Teri Smith (Children's Attorney/GAL); Jane and Julie Doe (youth)

Maury Doe (Father) was not notified of this review as FCRB was not able to obtain a current mailing address for him.

PRESENT FOR TODAY'S REVIEW: Ray Jones (Placement/John); Don Strick (Family Resources); Samantha Trane (mother's attorney); Teeya Doe (adoptive mother); Teri Smith (GAL)

OTHER INFORMATION PROVIDED: Amy Decker (DHS) provided a copy of her report to court dated 2/3/15 for the board's review and consideration.

Submitted by: Dubuque County Foster Care Review Board #1

Chairperson: Mary L.

Lead Questioner: Mary L.

Facilitator: Shelly Merz

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